

Claim 1 recites correction means for correcting image data output from an image reader using the correction data relating to a specific combination of image reader and image forming apparatus. In other words, when an image is inputted at an input device, for example, scanner A, and is then outputted at an output device, for example, printer B, the claimed image correction device finds the correction data specific to the combination of scanner A and printer B among many possible combinations of the scanners and printers connected to the image correction device, and corrects the image data from scanner A for printing by printer B. This is possible because the correction data is generated by directly comparing the image data taken in by scanner A and the digitized output of printer B as described at page 8, line 28 - page 10, line 13, of the specification. Since scanner A and printer B are directly correlated by the correction data specific to this combination, device characteristics that are unique to scanner A and printer B including time variant factors are incorporated into this correction data.

Tanio's device is a color-space conversion device. For example, Tanio's device converts an image mapped into a RGB color space into an image mapped into a CMY color space. See column 6, lines 31-41, of Tanio. For this conversion, Tanio's device first performs exponential transformation of the input image data using one of the look up tables, LUT 304-a, performs data conversion between the two color spaces, and then performs inverse exponential transformation of the space-converted data. See for example, column 10, lines 12-26, of Tanio. Fig. 14 further describes Tanio's conversion scheme. For example, when an input device is chosen, Tanio's conversions device may use four different output devices, including computer monitors, as shown in the top table of Fig. 14. The input LUT for the exponential transformation is the same

for four different input-output paths as only one input device is used. On the other hand, the output LUTs for the reverse exponential transformation are different depending on the output device used. Accordingly, the conversion table, i.e., 3x3 matrix, must correspond to the particular combination of the devices involved. Thus, to perform a conversion of a specific combination of input and output devices, Tanio's device must find independently the input LUT, the output LUT and the conversion table between the two LUTs of that combination, and merge them together to perform the conversion. The claimed image correction device, however, finds just one table, i.e., the correction data specific to a combination of input and output devices, and thus performs much quicker and simpler operation. Although the Examiner contends that Tanio teaches the data correction means of claim 1 in column 11, lines 24-37, no portion of Tanio, including the cited portion, teaches a structure that is the same as or equivalent to applicant's disclosed correction means.

Furthermore, Tanio states, at column 10, lines 28-33, that since LUTs are prepared individually for the input and output devices and not for each combination thereof, the number of LUTs is small. Thus, Tanio teaches away from generating a single LUT that corresponds to the whole input to output path, such as the correction data of claim 1.

Accordingly, Tanio does not teach or suggest the data correction means of claim 1. Claim 16 recites a data correction control program that corrects image data using the correction data relating to a specific combination of image reader and image forming apparatus. Claim 21 recites a step of correcting image data using the correction data relating to a specific combination

of image reader and image forming apparatus. As explained above, Tanio does not teach or suggest these features. Thus, the rejection of claims 1, 10, 16 and 21 should be withdrawn.

The remaining rejections rely on Tanio. These rejections should be withdrawn as well since Tanio does not provide the teachings for which it is cited.


In light of the above, a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing 325772007400.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


Barry E. Bretschneider
Registration No. 28,055

Morrison & Foerster LLP
1650 Tysons Boulevard, Suite 300
McLean, VA 22102-3915
Telephone: (703) 760-7743
Facsimile: (703) 760-7777